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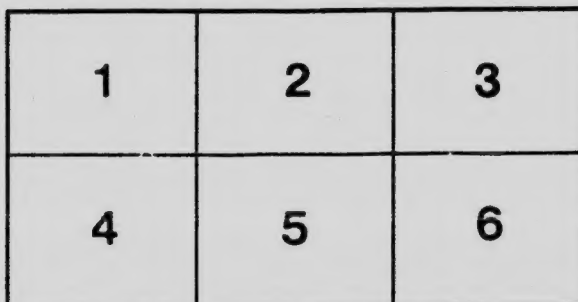
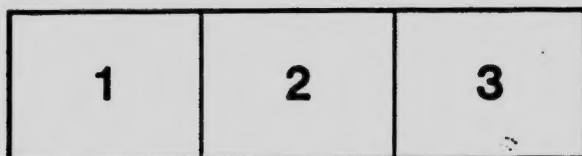
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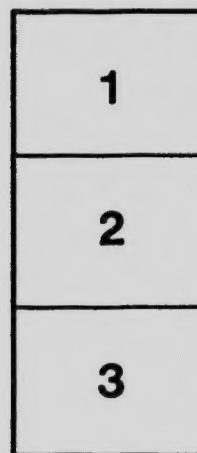
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Ap. D. Circ. 16

Circular Bulletin No. 16.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(STATISTICS BRANCH).

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Acreage and Live Stock Returns, 1917.

A. B. TWEDDLE, *Statistician.*

BY mutual arrangement between the Dominion Government and the Government of British Columbia, information relating to acreage in various farm crops and numbers of live stock on the farms in British Columbia has recently been collected conjointly. Over 19,300 blank cards were mailed by the Census and Statistics Office, Ottawa, to all agriculturists whose names appeared on the Provincial voters' lists. The results of this plan proved more satisfactory than was anticipated, since 45 per cent. of the estimated number of actual farmers filled in and mailed the cards to this office. It would appear from the voters' lists that the total number of farms being operated at the present time is a little over 15,000.

This opportunity is taken to thank those farmers who responded for their kind co-operation in making possible such a satisfactory percentage of returns. It is hoped, by an improved mailing-list and the growth of favourable public opinion and increased co-operation, that next year's percentage of returns will be materially increased.

Other Reports Obtained.

As a means of checking results obtained through the Dominion cards sent out, various general reports were obtained from officials of this Department, Secretaries of Farmers' Institutes, and individual reliable farmers. Where, by comparison, variations were shown, it was agreed by the two Gov-

ernments that the difference should be split and the resulting figure adopted.

The following statement shows the results to June 15th of the present year's plan as compared with the figures shown for the previous year on December 31st:—

Acreage under principal field crops—		
Grain-crops—		
	1917.	1916.
Fall wheat	3,236	18,843
Spring wheat	18,101	
Oats	60,234	67,065
Barley	5,524	4,006
Flax	54	50
Rye	911	452
Peas	1,338	1,085
Beans	2,117	1,800
Mixed grains	1,850	259
Buckwheat	185	...
Corn for husking	222	...
Other grain-crops	260	...
Total grains	94,032	93,560
Root and fodder crops—		
Hay and clover	129,254	122,410
Alfalfa	8,681	5,591
Pasture (range and meadow)	565,024	...
Potatoes	15,264	12,067
Turnips	2,003	2,903
Mangels	1,016	
Sugar-beets	401	2,434
Other root-crops	1,170	
Corn for fodder	2,239	22,424
Grain-hay	18,800	213
Green forage	1,810	...
Other crops	2,392	...
Fallow	9,268	...
Total cropped area only*	183,120	168,051
Total area of farms	1,367,871	1917.
Total area cleared land	338,045	1917.

Numbers of live stock—		
Horses—		
	June 15, 1917.	Dec. 31, 1916.
Stallions 2 years old and over	984	...
Mares 2 years old and over	20,220	...
Geldings 2 years old and over	18,319	...
Colts and fillies under 2 years old	8,408	...
Mules	156	...
Horses and mules, n.o.p.	7,193	...
Total horses and mules	55,280	65,000

* Does not include pasture or fallow.

Dairy cattle—	1917.	1916.
Bulls kept for breeding	2,120	...
Milk cows 2 years old and over (in milk or in calf).....	49,005	...
Yearlings	19,421	...
Calves	17,055	...
All other dairy cattle	1,200	...
Total dairy cattle	80,810	80,100
Beef cattle—		
Bulls kept for breeding	3,018	...
Cows 2 years old and over....	47,884	...
Yearlings	33,712	...
Calves	20,190	...
All other beef cattle, steers, and n.o.p.	39,720	...
Total beef cattle	153,524	170,000
Sheep	43,858	50,000
Swine	37,688	30,055
Poultry—		
Hens	600,220	...
Chickens	735,449	...
Geese	8,322	...
Ducks	16,368	...
Turkeys	7,032	...
Total poultry	1,368,000	830,000

Information relating to crop conditions, yields, and prices will be collected at intervals from July to December, inclusive, by a large number of carefully chosen agriculturists who will act as correspondents for, and be under the supervision of, the Dominion Government.

The first estimate for 1917 will be available at the Statistics Office, Victoria, on or about the 25th day of the following months: October and November, 1917, and January, 1918.

Figures Will be Checked.

For the purpose of checking the Dominion correspondents' returns, all officials of this Department will also submit reports obtained in their respective districts during September, October, and November, 1917, and January, 1918. These will be communicated to Ottawa and the resulting average figure be adopted.

Such a plan should result in very reliable data, and these, being frequently available, will serve to keep farmers and the general public in close touch with agricultural conditions at a time when such information will prove most beneficial to the farmers in particular.

The question is often brought up by the farmer as to the wisdom of making known such timely information, the fear being that large buyers and middlemen will manipulate to the detriment of the producers.

It is desired to strongly impress upon the producers that all successful buyers and middlemen make it a part of their business to first thoroughly acquaint themselves with supply and conditions in the different districts, and generally know more about the situation than the producers do themselves, who in the first place are wholly occupied on the farm, and in the second place do not or cannot spend the money necessary to make a survey. Even if such a survey were possible in local sections, it must be borne in mind that conditions which affect local prices often cover a very wide range, so that the individual producers must not only know conditions in his own particular district, but those in the whole Province, and even in all other Provinces and countries of the world. Just so long as those farmers who withhold individual data are unwilling to co-operate in making possible the fullest general information, just so long will they be, to a corresponding degree, at the mercy of many unscrupulous manipulators of the market.

War Makes Difference.

War demands have also made it vastly important that the supply of food products be known at all times, and our Allies look to all producers for their co-operation in supplying such data, notwithstanding any commercial aspect.

Following will be found extracts from the July issue of the "Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics" (formerly issued as the "Census and Statistics Monthly"), published at Ottawa.

This bulletin not only contains information relating to crops in the Dominion of Canada, but brief reports from the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, which was founded in 1905 for the purpose of collecting and publishing official information relating to crops and crop conditions the world over.

Agriculturists in this Province would find this bulletin most beneficial, and those not already on the mailing-list can procure this bulletin on application to the "Editor, Ernest H. Godfrey, Census and Statistics Office, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Canada."

**Condition of Field Crops, June 30th,
1914-17.**

(NOTE.—100=Standard of full crop.)

British Columbia.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Fall wheat	89	95	82	85
Spring wheat	93	98	86	89
All wheat	92	97	85	88
Oats	91	97	88	94
Barley	94	93	90	88
Rye	100	98	83	88
Peas	94	108	91	97
Mixed grains	95	98	87	94
Hay and clover	92	103	81	96
Alfalfa	100	111	85	86
Pasture	90	96	88	98

**Condition of Field Crops, June 30th,
1915-17.**

(NOTE.—100=Standard of full crop.)

Per Cent. of Standard Condition.

Canada.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Fall wheat	93	80	70
Spring wheat	93	80	85
All wheat	93	87	83
Oats	92	86	85
Barley	92	88	86
Rye	94	91	83
Peas	93	82	80
Mixed grains	94	84	91
Hay and clover	80	99	89
Alfalfa	88	95	88
Pasture	89	101	92

Numbers of Farm Live Stock, 1915-17.

Canada.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	No.	No.	No.
Cattle	2,996,099	2,990,635	3,035,254
Sheep	2,666,846	2,608,345	2,642,709
Hogs	3,390,155	3,313,519	3,325,013
Poultry	2,038,662	1,965,101	2,009,717
Swine	3,111,900	2,814,672	2,513,526

**Crop Reports from Other Countries.
England and Wales.**

Expressing an average crop by 100, the condition of the crops on July 1st indicated probable yields per acre which may be denoted by the following percentages: Wheat, 94; barley, 98; beans, 88; peas, 94; potatoes, 103; mangels, 101; seeds, hay, 97; meadow-hay, 95; hops, 102.

Scotland.

The Board of Agriculture reports (July 1st) that on the whole the weather conditions during June were

favourable for both crops and stock, and that the prospects of the season are good.

India.

The Indian Department of Statistics has issued (May 26th) the third general memorandum on the wheat-crop of 1916-17, which shows that the total area under wheat in India is estimated at 33,040,000 acres, as compared with 30,143,000 acres last year, an increase of 10 per cent. The total yield is estimated at 379,307,000 bushels, as against 318,005,000 bushels last year, an increase of 19 per cent. The figures of both area and yield are the highest on record.

France.

The Journal Officiel of June 3rd records the results of the inquiry made by the French Department of Agriculture as to the seeding of cereals and the condition of the crops on May 1st. The areas shown show a decrease of over 3,855,000 acres as compared with 1916, being caused by unfavourable weather from the previous autumn to spring. The seriousness of the situation caused by the decrease shown above is still more apparent from a statement that the total decrease in the areas under these cereals is 8,648,710 acres, as compared with the areas of the pre-war harvest of 1914, not counting the territory occupied by the enemy.

Russia.

The Trade and Industrial Gazette has published the following report on crop conditions in central and southern Russia on May 27th (O.S.): "The condition of the crops is generally favourable. Winter wheat shows generally satisfactory condition, being good in parts of the south, south-west, North Caucasus, and central governments; the crop is unsatisfactory in parts of the Don Territory, Little Russia, Middle Volga, and the north-west. The rye-crop is generally above the average; this crop is good in parts of the south-west, centre, and south, in North Caucasus and Trans-Volga, but it is unsatisfactory in Poltava and the north-west. Spring crops are generally satisfactory, being good in the greater part of the

south-western Don region, also in parts of the south-west, Little Russia, and central governments. Spring crops are unsatisfactory in parts of the centre and north-west. In many localities there is now a want of rain. Broomhall's Corn Trade News of June 20th reports that favourable accounts of crop conditions in the central and southern zones continue to be received; in the northerly regions better weather has recently prevailed, but previously it was unseasonably cold and generally of a wintry character, which caused much delay to spring sowing and kept winter crops backward."

Argentina.

Favourable weather for the new seedlings continues to prevail, and according to a statement made in Parliament the wheat area this year is no less than 19,700,000 acres. Last year only 16,000,000 acres were planted with wheat, and the biggest acreage hitherto was 17,000,000 in 1911 and 1912.

United States.

The Crop-reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture issued (July 9th) the following estimates of the areas under the principal field crops:—

Crop.	Acres.	Per Cent. of 1916.
Winter wheat	27,653,000	79.4
Spring wheat	19,039,000	106.0
All wheat	46,692,000	88.5
Corn	121,045,000	114.2
Oats	43,161,000	103.9
Barley	8,379,000	109.2
Rye	3,772,000	122.2
White potatoes	4,384,000	122.5
Tobacco	1,418,400	100.5
Flax	1,930,000	120.8
Rice	968,600	111.8

The total production of potatoes in the United States for 1917 is forecasted at 451,717,000 bushels, as compared with 285,437,000 bushels in 1916 and 350,721,000 bushels in 1915. The amount of wheat remaining on farms July 1st is estimated at 2.5 per cent. of last year's crop, about 15,720 bushels, as compared with 74,731,000 on July 1st, 1916, and 30,934,000, the average of stocks on July 1st for the five years 1911-15.

Areas Sown to Field Crops in Canada, June 30th, 1917.

For wheat the acreage sown is placed at 13,540,050 acres, as compared with 14,807,000 acres, the area sown, and with 12,000,500 acres, the area harvested in 1916. Thus the area sown to wheat, whilst 9 per cent. less than the area sown for 1916, is 5 per cent. more than the area harvested for 1916. Of the total area under wheat 809,230 acres were sown last fall and 12,740,400 acres were sown this spring. The acreages for all Canada now estimated as sown to other early grain-crops, as compared with the harvested areas of 1916, are as follows: Oats, 11,506,000, against 9,875,346; barley, 1,819,900, against 1,081,180; rye, 153,900, against 147,170; peas, 151,830, against 150,290; mixed grains, 400,140, against 307,770. Hay and clover are estimated to occupy 7,824,000 acres as compared with 7,892,932 acres, and alfalfa 86,500 acres as compared with 89,472 acres. For later-sown cereals and hoed crops the estimated areas, as compared with the areas harvested last year, are as follows: Buckwheat, 336,400 acres, against 341,500 acres; flax, 695,750 acres, against 605,700 acres; corn for husking, 173,600 acres, against 173,000 acres; beans, 43,000 acres, against 32,500 acres; turnips, etc., 152,100 acres, against 150,200; sugar-beets, 14,000 acres, against 15,000 acres; and corn for fodder, 310,465 acres, against 207,100 acres. Every Provin shows an increase in the area planted to potatoes, and the total area under this crop is estimated at 502,400 acres as compared with 448,800 acres, the area harvested in 1916, an increase of nearly 12 per cent. The acreage under potatoes for 1917 is larger than in any previous year, and is 18,400 acres larger than the previous record of 484,000 acres in 1912.

Conditions of Grain and Hay Crops.

In the three Atlantic Provinces conditions at the end of June were generally satisfactory, nearly all grain-crops being reported as over 90 per cent. of the standard representing a full crop in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and between 85 and 90 per cent. in New Brunswick. Quebec also shows a condition of about 80 per cent. and over. In

Ontario fall wheat has still the low condition of 67 per cent., but spring wheat is as high as 93. Oats are 94, barley is 91, and other crops range from 85 to 97. In the Prairie Provinces the late spring, followed by cold and dry weather, has kept all crops backward; but prospects at the end of June were reported to be improving, as beneficial rains had fallen over considerable areas. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan the percentage condition of wheat and oats at June 30th was 76 and 78, these figures being lower than in any of the last seven years at the same date. For Alberta spring wheat and oats on June 30th were 85 per cent. of the standard.

Converting the figures for all Canada from percentage of the standard or full crop to a scale in which 100 represents the average condition on June 30th for the past nine years, 1908-1916, the condition becomes for wheat, oats, rye, and barley as follows: Fall wheat, 86; spring wheat, 95; all wheat, 95; oats,

95; rye, 94; and barley, 97. That is to say, if conditions between June 30th and the date of harvest be not abnormal, the anticipated yield per acre is 14 per cent. below average for fall wheat; 5 per cent. below for spring wheat, all wheat, and oats; 6 per cent. below for rye; and 3 per cent. below for barley. Hay, clover, and alfalfa show good promise, excepting in Manitoba, where the condition is as low as 52 per cent. of the standard.

Potato Acreage.

Per cent. increase of certain countries, 1917 over 1916:—

	Per Cent.
England and Wales	10.0
Scotland	7.6
Italy	6.7
Norway	30.0
Switzerland	19.3
Japan	5.8
Canada	12.0
United States	22.5

Average increase 14.4

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